A

DECLARATION

Of His Moſt Sacred Majeſty,

King James II.

To all His Loving

SUBJECTS

IN THE

KINGDOM of ENGLAND.

JAMES R.

ALthough the many Calumnies and diſmal Stories, by which Our Enemies have endeavour'd to render Us and Our Government Odious to the World, do now appear to have been advanced by them, not only without any Ground, but againſt their own certain Knowledge; as is evident by their not daring to attempt the proving theſe Charges to the World, which We cannot but hope hath open'd the Eyes of Our good Subjects, to ſee how they have been impoſed upon by deſigning Men; who, to promote their own Ambitious Ends, care not what *Slavery* they reduce Our Kingdoms to: Yet, We cannot but rejoyce, that We have had an Opportunity to demonſtrate the Falſneſs and Malice of their Pretences, ſince Our Arrival in this Our Kingdom of *Ireland*; by making it Our chief Concern to ſatisfy the Minds of Our Proteſtant Subjects: The Defence of their Religion, Priviledges and Properties, is equally Our Care with the recovery of Our Rights. To this end, We have preferred ſuch of them, of whoſe Loyalty and Affection We are ſatisfied, to Places both of the higheſt Honor and Truſt about Our Perſon, as well as in Our Army. We have, by granting Our Royal Protection to ſuch whoſe Minds were ſhaken by the

Arts of Our *Rebellious Subjects*, expell'd their Apprehenſions, and effectually ſecured them againſt the Attempts, even of their private Enemies. Our Ear hath been always open to their Juſt Complaints; And ſo far hath Our Royal Mercy been extended, to thoſe who were in Arms againſt Us, that We have actually Pardoned ſeveral Hundreds of them; and moſt *Notorious Criminals* are kept in no eaſie Confinement (as they themſelves acknowledge.)

We have taken Care that Our Subjects of the Church of *England* be not diſturbed in the Exerciſe of their Religion, the Poſſeſſion of their Benefices and other Properties; and all Proteſtant Diſſenters enjoy Liberty of their Conſciences, without any moleſtation. And out of Our Royal Care for the Proſperity of Our People, We have recommended to *Our Parliament*, as the Firſt Thing neceſſary to be diſpatched, to ſettle ſuch a Security and Liberty, both in Spiritual and Temporal Matters, as may put an End to theſe Diviſions, which have been the Source of all Our Miſeries; Being reſolved, as much as in Us lyes, to entail Liberty and Happineſs upon Our People ſo far, as to put it out of the Power of Our Succeſſors to Invade the one, or Infringe the other. And this, We take God to Witneſs, was always Our deſign; of which We ſee Our good Subjects here are more and more convinced, by the great Numbers of thoſe, who having been Seduced, or Frightned, by the reſtleſs Importunities of Our Enemies, are returned to their Country and Habitations; and who aſſure Us, daily more would follow, if the *Ports* were open: But the *Uſurpers* know too well the ſincerity of Our Intentions, to permit a free Paſſage of Our ſaid Subjects; fearing nothing more than that their Experience ſhould undeceive the reſt, who are reſtrained more through Ignorance than any ill Intention: And therefore deny them that Liberty which We afford to all, whoſe deſigns We are ſatisfied tend not to the diſturbance of the Peace.

By this Our Gracious and Royal Care of Our Proteſtant Subjects here, (where the greateſt part of Our Nation is Catholick) and have, as well as We, received the higheſt provocation from their Fellow-Subjects of contrary Perſuaſions: So that nothing, but Our Own inclination to Juſtice, and deſire to ſee Our People Flouriſh, could move Us to ſuch a Proceeding. We hope Our Subjects in *England* will make a Judgment of what they may expect from Us: And We do hereby promiſe and declare, That nothing ſhall ever alter Our Reſolutions to purſue ſuch, and no other Methods, as by Our ſaid Subjects in Parliament ſhall be found proper for Our common Security, Peace and Happineſs. And that none may be debarr'd of aſſiſting Us in recovering of Our Rights, and redeeming Our People from their preſent Slavery, out of any apprehenſion from paſt Miſcarriages; We do hereby aſſure all Our Subjects, of what Quality ſoever, let their Crimes againſt Us be never ſo great; That, if in Twenty Days after Our appearing in Perſon in Our Kingdom of *England*, they return to their Obedience, by deſerting Our Enemies and joyning with Us, We will grant them Our full Pardon, and all paſt Miſcarriages ſhall be forgot: So little do We delight in the Blood or Ruin of Our People. But if after this Our Gracious condeſcenſion, they ſhall yet continue to aſſiſt Our Enemies and Rebels, We do before God charge all the Blood which ſhall be afterward ſhed, upon Them and their Adherents. And, We doubt not, by the Bleſſing of God upon Our Arms, to force the moſt Obſtinate to their Duty: Though, as We have made appear in reducing Our Rebellious Subjects in this Kingdom, We deſire to uſe no other Methods than *Lenity* and *Mercy*.

Given at Our Court, in Dublin-Caſtle, *the Eighth of* May, 1689.
in the Fifth Year of Our Reign.

God ſave the King.

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